

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9111
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3410

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG
SUBJECT: STATUS OF GOZ-IMF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) KINSHASA 2869; B) KINSHASA 2924

1. DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION APRIL 7, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR BOFOSSA CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT IMF TEAM HEADED BY TENCONI ARRIVED ZAIRE APRIL 4 AND IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE APRIL 9. BOFOSSA STATED THAT VISIT HAS SO FAR GONE WELL. HE CLAIMED GOZ AND IMF HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON ALL MAJOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMF EXPERTS TO BE PROVIDED TO CENTRAL BANK INCLUDING AUTHORITY TO BE EXERCISED BY EXPATRIATE DIRECTOR GENERAL. IN FACT, BOFOSSA COMMENTED, THE GOZ HAS PROPOSED THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL BE GRANTED EVEN GREATER POWERS THAN CONTEMPLATED BY THE IMF.

2. PRINCIPAL OUTSTANDING ISSUE IS SELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL. BOFOSSA INDICATED THAT IMF HAS MENTIONED SEVERAL POSSIBLE CANDIDATES BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE. HE REITERATED GOZ'S CRITERIA AS A) EXPERIENCE, B) KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE, AND
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C) NATIVE OF A "FRIENDLY COUNTRY." HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL NOT BE FROM A COUNTRY WITH MAJOR INTERESTS IN ZAIRE (E.G. BELGIUM), BUT INDICATED THAT THIS CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE WAIVED.

3. REFERRING TO THE ORIGINAL GOZ IDEA THAT EXPATRIATE TEAM AT CENTRAL BANK MIGHT BE SUPPLIED PARTLY BY IMF

PERSONNEL AND PARTLY BY BELGIAN AND/OR FRENCH GOVERNMENTS, BOFOSSA SAID IMF HAD MADE CLEAR IT COULD NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONNEL PROVIDED ON BILATERAL BASIS BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, INITIAL TEAM WILL BE LIMITED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL AND FOUR EXPERTS, ALL PROVIDED BY IMF. OTHER NON-IMF EXPERTS MIGHT BE SUPPLIED AT A LATER DATE DEPENDING ON NEED.

4. RE STANDBY AGREEMENT, BOFOSSA STATED THAT BY THIS WEEKEND HE EXPECTS TO HAVE ALL OF THE DATA PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED BY THE IMF AND EARLY NEXT WEEK GOZ WILL FORMALLY INVITE IMF TO SEND A TEAM TO NEGOTIATE TERMS OF NEW AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT IT NOW APPEARS THIS TEAM WILL BE HEADED BY BORNEMAN. CUTLER

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